

0108-354 US-1
Amendment dated 11/22/2011

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Reply to office action mailed 8/22/2011

03100199aa

The following is a complete listing of all claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) An orthopedic aid which is used by a patient for walking and which provides a supporting function for the human body ~~and a safety function for operation of the supporting function~~, comprising:
 - two parts which are ~~movable~~ rotatable relative to one another;
 - a locking device for locking the two parts in an extended position so that a ~~movement~~ rotation of the two parts relative to one another is blocked during standing and walking and for manually unlocking the two parts to permit ~~movement~~ rotation of the two parts with respect to one another in a rest position,
 - wherein said locking device is operable by a user of the orthopedic aid, ~~the user being able to notice from observation of behavior of the orthopedic aid whether the locking device is locked or unlocked;~~
 - means for automatically detecting locking ~~or unlocking~~ of said locking device; and
 - a signaling arrangement which emits a signal, responsive to said means for automatically detecting said locking, for alerting the user of the orthopedic aid ~~to a locking state or upon unlocking that the locking of the said locking device, thereby confirming said observation or alerting the user when said observation is incorrect~~ has taken place.

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2. (canceled)

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1 3. (previously presented) The orthopedic aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein
2 the signaling arrangement emits a signal upon unlocking.

1 4. (previously presented) The orthopedic aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein
2 said signaling arrangement provides a signal which is visual, acoustic, tactile
3 and/or mechanical.

1 5. (previously presented) The orthopedic aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein
2 said means for detecting includes a detection arrangement designed to
3 generate the signal electrically as a function of the locking state.

1 6. (previously presented) The orthopedic aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein
2 the locking device has a movable locking pin whose position is detected by
3 the means for detecting.

1 7. (previously presented) The orthopedic aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein
2 the locking device is actuated electromechanically to permit unlocking.

1 8. (previously presented) The orthopedic aid as claimed in claim 6, wherein
2 the movable locking pin is arranged such that it can be drawn into a magnet
3 coil to permit unlocking.

1 9. (previously presented) The orthopedic aid as claimed in claim 6, wherein
2 the detection arrangement is designed for electrical scanning of a position of
3 the locking pin.

1 10. (previously presented) The orthopedic aid as claimed in claim 1 further
2 comprising an electromagnetic actuating arrangement with a low actuating
3 force of not more than 2 N, wherein the locking device, when in the extended

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4 position, has a slight play, allowing a freedom of movement of the locking
5 mechanism in the loading pertaining to the extended position, whereas, in the
6 event of a load exerting a turning moment on the locking device, the locking
7 device cannot be unlocked by the actuating arrangement on account of
8 frictional forces.

1 11. (previously presented) The orthopedic aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein
2 the locking device is actuated by wireless transmission of an actuating signal.

3 12. (previously presented) The orthopedic aid as claimed in claim 11,
4 wherein an actuating signal for wireless transmission of a command signal is
5 triggered on a handgrip of a walking aid.

1 13. (previously presented) The orthopedic aid as claimed in claim 11,
2 wherein the signal of the signaling arrangement is sent by wireless
3 transmission to a walking aid.

1 14. (previously presented) The orthopedic aid as claimed in claim 13,
2 wherein the walking aid has a visual and/or acoustic signal display
3 arrangement.

1 15. (previously presented) The orthopedic aid as claimed in claim 13,
2 wherein a handgrip of the walking aid is provided with a vibrator that can be
3 actuated by the signal of the signaling arrangement.

1 16. (new) An orthopedic aid which is used by a patient for walking and
2 which provides a supporting function for the human body, comprising:
3 two parts which are rotatable relative to one another;

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4 a locking device for locking the two parts in an extended position so
5 that a rotation of the two parts is blocked during standing and walking and for
6 manually unlocking the two parts to permit rotation of the two parts with
7 respect to one another in a rest position, wherein said locking device is
8 operable by a user of the orthopedic aid;
9 means for automatically detecting the locking state of said locking
10 device; and
11 a signaling arrangement which emits a signal, responsive to said
12 means for automatically detecting the locking state, upon unlocking as a
13 warning signal in the event of inadvertent unlocking of the locking device.

1 17. (new) An orthopedic aid as in claim 1, further comprising a safety
2 function for operation of the supporting function, wherein said signal confirms
3 an observation by the user that the orthopedic aid is locked.

1 18. (new) An orthopedic aid as in claim 16, further comprising a safety
2 function for operation of the supporting function, wherein said signal
3 contradicts an observation by the user that the orthopedic aid is locked.